



Shirley House Interfaith Centre Annual Report to ECC October 2020

Caroline Cripps

The committee met in February 2020 and by Zoom in August 2020 and February 2021.

Lynn Rishworth, a long-time representative of the Pagan Federation on our committee has moved away from Sheffield, and Rachel Rodham has kindly agreed to replace her.

After about 7 years as Chair and SAPLC representative on the Shirley House Interfaith Committee I am stepping down and Janet Loughridge kindly volunteered to take over.

We generally hold our own events every month, plus we host Sheffield Interfaith 'Food & Friendship' bring and share dinners most months. Due to Covid-19 events planned for March 2020 onwards were postponed until further notice, with the exception of a well-attended **bring-your-own, socially distanced picnic in place of the barbecue on 19th July**.

We eventually realised we could meet virtually and arranged events for autumn 2020 and spring 2021, as listed below:

- **30th November** Kenneth Owele Okafor's talk via Zoom about his '**Faith Journey as a Nigerian Jew**' came to a hasty end after a nasty interruption from a visitor using racist and anti-Semitic language. We have learned our lesson and improved our security systems.
- **14th December** We had a successful and enjoyable **winter quiz and party** as usual, also by Zoom. Questions ranged through winter sports, Hannukah, world mythology, Hindu gods and secular Christmas celebrations. The winner was Dr Vithal Patel, (president of the Hindu Samaj)
- **21st January** a former colleague of Gareth's from the University of Birmingham, **Dr Sharada Sugirtharajah**, gave a talk on '**Hindu concepts of God**'. This was not a lecture, but an informal opportunity to learn about different traditions and interpretations of the many names of gods in Hinduism.
- **23rd February** Rabbi Golomb, from the local orthodox Synagogue, spoke about **the Jewish Concept of God**.
- **16th March** Rachel Rodham spoke on **Concepts of God in Modern Paganism**
- **7th April: SAPLC Eco Group talk/presentation**

Forthcoming Events

- **25th May: Faith symbols Show and Tell**
- **June: Is there a Buddhist Concept of God?** (date tbc)
- **18th July: Interfaith BBQ or picnic** in SAPLC grounds.